pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Balmer Lawree and Company, a Government of India Undertaking, had stopped their production of Bytylated Hydroxy Toulene (BHT) or Dibutyl, Cresol (DBCP); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of Butylated Hydroxy Toulene - BHT (Di Tertiary Butyl Para Cresol - DBPC) has been suspended in view of substantial drop in demand for BHT (DBPC) in India. As per projections, the demand for this product in 1998-99 was supposed to be more than 2000 MT. Against this, the actual demand for this product by potential customers such as IPCL, IOC, HPC, etc. was around 400 MT only. This was unviable volume, even at 100% market share. Therefore, the production was suspended. Drop in demand is attributed to lower sale of the finished products such a Butyl Rubber and LDPE. Further, some of the customers have replaced this product with cheaper substitutes.

Exploitation of Natural Gas detected in Barmer District of Rajasthan

2571. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be plased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge reserves of Natural Gas has been detected recently in Rajasthan's border district of Barmer, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the time by when the process of tapping the reserves would begin;

(c) the details of gas reserves detected during last five years in the country; and

(d) the approximate requirement of natural gas in the country as on date and the actually available.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the years 1993-94 to 1997-98, 24 new finds of free gas have been made, which lead to the accretion of 21.3 84 BCM of free gas.

(d) The current requirement of existing gas consumers is to the extent of 75.76 Million Standard Metric Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD), while the current supply is at the level of 61.06 MMSCMD.

ONGC investment in EOR programme

2572. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. plans to invest about Rs. 2,000 crore in its enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) programme for its Bombay High offshore oilfield;

(b) if so, what is the objective expected to be achieved; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. ONGC is yet to identify suitable EOR process for Bombay High field.

Discrimination in Supply

2573. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil corporation fixes the quantity of MS and HSD transferred to its COCO retail outlets only on the basis of temperature @15°C instead of the actual quantity according to the capacity of tankers;

(b) whether the same is also applicable in case of dealers operated retail outlet, and what steps are being taken / proposed to be taken to abolish and discrimination with dealers's owned retail outlets; and

(c) the reasons for this discrimination and the details on dealership commission vide letter No. P20027/8/82 PP dated the 16 May, 1983?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND

NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. MS and HSD is released to COCO outlets as well as dealer-operated outlets at natural temperature as per the capacity of tank truck, and hence there is no discrimination in supply between COCO and dealers-operated retail outlets.

(c) The Govt. vide letter No. P-20027/8/82-PP dated 16.5.83 authorised payment of revised dealers commissions following the increase in ex-storage point price of HSD w.e.f. 15.2.83. The Govt. also gave a formula for increase in dealers commission, whenever there is an increase in ex-storage point prices of MS/HSD. Retail selling prices of MS/HSD include a uniform element of commission. In the formula for automatic price revision, additional working capital/product loss have been taken into account due to price revision that may be authorised by the Govt. from time to time.

Operating cost of LPG distributorship

2574. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per cylinder estimated operating cost of running the LPG distributorship in the markets having population less than 10 lakh and in Delhi market;

(b) what elements of cost are taken into account at the time of deciding the distributorships commission; and

(c) what are the reasons for giving very high increase in profits of Delhi Distributors by increasing the refill sole ceiling limits rapidly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As per the sample survey conducted for the Directors' Committee Report of August, 1997, the average cost per distributor works out to about Rs. 6.88 per cylinder on an all-India basis as per 1995-96 data.

(b) Dealers' Commission takes into account the following elements:

(i) Return on investment;

(ii) Operating costs which includes expenses like salary and wages, electricity, insurance, repair and maintenance, telephone, uniforms, conveyance, depreciation, taxes/fees/audit, rent, printing and stationery, consumables and shrinkage allowance where applicable.

(iii) Cost of working capital and stock loss.

(c) LPG refill ceiling is linked with the population of the city/town in which the markets are located. Refill ceiling for various markets is fixed on the Principle of Servicing Capability, Operating Costs, Viability levels and other factors like availability of land, etc. Accordingly, the LPG refill sale ceiling limits have been revised upward in May, 1997 on all India basis including Delhi. On account of above factors, refill sale ceiling limits are higher in towns with higher population.

LNG Terminal at Haldia

2575. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a LNG terminal is set up by Gas Authority of India, Ltd. (GAIL) or any other Government agency in Haldia;

(b) if so, the project cost and the likely date of completion; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof in view of the offer from the Government of West Bengal to take part in equity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Although Government of West Bengal have expressed its interest in equity participation for setting up an LNG Terminal at Haldia, the demand for LNG to required level has not been assessed for the projects other than those at Dahej and Cochin.

New exploration licensing policy

2576. SHRI M.J. VARKEY MATTATHIL:

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:—